

NEWS RELEASE

Idaho Department of Water Resources



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For Media Information Contact:
Linda Cawley – 208-287-4826

Energy Division Plans Training Conference For Idaho Builders

This year's annual Idaho Builder Energy Conference, set for March 13 and 14 in Boise, will bring builders together to hear some of the leading industry professionals discuss insulation, air conditioners, heat pumps, and airflow design in energy-efficient homes.

The conference will be conducted at the Washington Group Plaza Auditorium, 720 Park Blvd., beginning at 8 a.m. both days. Pre-registration is preferred, but not necessary. Registration of \$75 includes lunch both days.

The Energy Division, along with several co-sponsors, conducts a series of training workshops for builders who are interested in constructing Energy Star homes. Co-sponsors include Idaho Power Company, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This year's theme is "Sustainable Homes for a Sustainable Future." The conference will feature several speakers, including Dr. Joe Lstiburek, one of the world's foremost authorities on energy-efficient construction techniques.

"More people are seeing the advantages of owning an Energy Star home constructed by builders who are Building Partners in Idaho," says Doug Plourde, energy specialist and Idaho Energy Star program manager.

"Several Energy Division programs are designed to provide technical assistance to Realtors, trade partners, builders, remodelers and homeowners throughout Idaho," says Plourde.

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Homes that earn the Energy Star certification must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These qualified homes are at least 30 percent more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Energy Conservation Code Supplement.

Energy Star qualified homes can include a variety of energy-efficient features, such as more effective insulation, high performance windows, tight construction and air ducts, higher efficient heating and cooling equipment, and Energy Star qualified lighting and appliances.

These features contribute to improved homeowner comfort, health, safety, and durability, causing lower energy demand and reduced air pollution. Energy Star also encourages the use of compact fluorescent lights and energy-efficient appliances, as well as features designed to improve indoor air quality.

For more information about the conference and to register online, call the Idaho Energy Hotline, 1-800-334-SAVE.

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